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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who has made us children of promise, thank You for bringing joy to our world. We are grateful for the freedom You have given us to

enjoy. May we use this gift to live steadfast in liberty, refusing to be entangled in the chains that would shackle us with addictions and miseries.

During this season of cheer, give our Senators and their loved ones the gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self control. May they fulfill Your command to love their neighbors as they love themselves. Bless also the families and loved ones of our support staffs.

O God, let there be peace on earth. Let it begin with us. We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 1st Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2013, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 113th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on Tuesday, December 31, 2013, to permit Members to insert statements.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman*.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 19, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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